CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A system for tracking and managing data over a
computer network including a plurality of application
computers each operating an computer software
application program, the system comprising:

a key master;

a system startup module connected to the key
master;

a gatekeeper connected to the system startup
module;

a task manager connected to the key master and the
gatekeeper;

a central database connected to the gatekeeper;

a plurality of agents connected to the task
manager;

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each of a plurality of sub-agents independently connected to each of the plurality of agents and each of the plurality of application computers.

and an alert dispatcher connected to the system
5   startup module and the gatekeeper.

2.   The system of claim 1, wherein the alert dispatcher provides an alert comprising an email message.

3.   The system of claim 1, wherein the alert
10   dispatcher provides an alert comprising an electronic instant message.

4.   The system of claim 1, wherein the alert dispatcher provides an alert comprising a paging message.

15   5.   The system of claim 1, wherein the system uses a Linux operating system.

6.   The system of claim 1, wherein the central database comprises a plurality of independent databases.

7.   A method for tracking and managing a message
20   over a computer network including a plurality of

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application computers each operating an computer

software application program, the method comprising the

steps of:

monitoring the message at a lowest common format;

5   comparing the content of the message to a

validator key;

extracting a message key if the content of the

message matches the validator key;

assembling the message based on one or more

10   predetermined criteria;

queuing the message;

retrieving the message; and

storing the message.

8.   The method of claim 7, wherein the method

15   further comprises the step of alerting an operator with

an alert notification of a shutdown of the one of the

plurality of application computers.

9.   The method of claim 8, wherein the alert

comprises an email message.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein the alert comprises an electronic instant message.

11. The method of claim 8, wherein the alert comprises a paging message.

5   12. The method of claim 7, wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

retrieving the message; and

viewing the message.

13. The method of claim 7, wherein the lowest
10 common format comprises TCP/IP, FTP, or SNA.

14. A method for tracking and managing a message over a computer network including a plurality of application computers each operating an computer software application program, the method comprising the
15 steps of:

monitoring the message at a lowest common format with a sub-agent;

comparing the content of the message to a validator key with the sub-agent;

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extracting a message key if the message matches the validator key with an agent;

assembling the message based on one or more predetermined rules;

5   queuing the message;

retrieving the message with a task manager; and

storing the message in a central database.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the method further comprises the step of alerting an operator with

10   an alert of a shutdown of the one of the plurality of application computers.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the alert comprises an email message.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein the alert

15   comprises an electronic instant message.

18. The method of claim 15, wherein the alert comprises a paging message.

19. The system of claim 14, wherein the central database comprises a plurality of independent databases.

20. The method of claim 14, wherein the method further comprises the step of retrieving and analyzing the message.

21. The method of claim 14, wherein the lowest
5   common format comprises TCP/IP, FTP, or SNA.